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[Genealogy of the Lea Family]

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(Published in the Freeborn County Standard,

Albert Lea, March 13, 1879)

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Lea, Albert Miller, 1807-1890.
Genealogy of the Lea family / Albert Miller.
Lea. -- Albert Lea, Minn : Freeborn County
Standard, 1879.

GENEALOGY

30 p. : 29 cm.

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Copied by the Minnesota Historical Society
June, 1922.

1. Lea family (Pryor Lea, fl. 17th century)
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[Genealogy of the Lea Family]

There is a tradition that, at an early day in the history of the colony of Virginia, three brothers came thither from England, and settled in Mecklenberg county, where their wills are on record, one spelled Leigh, one Lee and one Lea; and that this diversity in spelling was agreed upon by them for the sake of greater distinguishment among their anticipatedly numerous descendants. The most distinguished of the three branches are Benjamin Watkins Leigh, of Virginia, lawyer, judge and senator; Robert E. Lee, filled with all the virtues that adorn humanity; and Pryor Lea, noted for early precocity, and a life of unselfish labor as clerk, lawyer, congressman, statesman and publicist, who now, in his four score & fifth year, labors night and day to settle chronic disputes about large areas of lands in Southern Texas, and who, in the hundreds of thousands of pages from his pen, has never neglected to dot an i or cross a t.

Mecklenberg borders on North Carolina, and the Leas mainly passed over the line, filling the counties of Person and Caswell, where Leasburg attests their presence. They have multiplied greatly in the south and west, and although rarely producing a prominent man, they have ever been noted as good men, kind neighbors and useful citizens, and not one is known to have been convicted of a criminal offence.

They have extensively intermarried with the Harmons, Graveses and Hamptons, the latter furnishing the gallant general and statesman, Wade, the model of a man for the times.

At the outbreak of the Revolution, Luke Lea, a baptist preacher, unwilling to take an active part with rebels, moved back from

Caswell county to the west; and, as the tide of war rolled on, over the mountains, across the great valley, to the base of the Cumberland range, where he buried his wife, Elizabeth Wilson, on a sharp conical hill in Campbell county, where the grave remains to this day a noted land mark. He left eight sons and a daughter, whose descendants are very numerous in Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas. The men are generally large, handsome and kind; the women are noted for beauty and housewifely virtues.

Thomas Jarnagin came of a stock that migrated from England, near the border of Wales, to Virginia. He was a proud, energetic, unlettered man. Having married a Witt, of more than usual culture, but full of Welsh lore and superstition, in 1775, he migrated with his young wife to the then "Far West," and settled on Watauga river, a tributary of the Holston, where he cultivated the rich alluvial bottoms so successfully as to send many seeds to "The Cumberland Settlement," as Nashville was then called. But he was not content with these slow gains, seeking greater profits in retailing goods brought by his own team from old Virginia, upon which he laid "one percent," as he said, meaning two for one. He bought up the bounty land certificates of the soldiers after the war was over, and located them on the choice river alluvials of the rivers and creeks of that great valley, and then became a noted land owner, for which reason, when, under John Sevier, of King's Mountain Memory, the independent "State of Franklin" was established, he was selected as chief of the Land Office although he could not sign his name the writing being done by Anna, his daughter, afterwards wife of Samuel Carson and twin with Rhoda, afterward wife of Major Lea, son of Major Lea, who came with Daniel Boone from N. Caroli-



na, and stopped in Powell's Valley, near Cumberland Gap, where he remained, not as Byron said of Boone, "Hunting up to ninety," but killing his buck at one hundred and one, still standing 6 ft two in his stockings, (beg pardon, moccasins), straight as an arrow, broad shouldered, and with his silvery hair flowing down his back.

This foresight and shrewdness enabled Thomas Jarnagin to leave fair lands to each of his numerous children; and he assigned them homes on Richland Creek in Hawkins now Grainger county, of which he had entered the whole valley, which he sliced up by cross lines from hill to hill, giving each a due portion, that they might dwell together as members of one family. The lower tract in the valley, above the ridges penetrated by the stream to reach the Holston, twenty miles North-East from Knoxville, fell to the lot of Lavinia his second child and oldest daughter, who, at 24 1/2 years, was married to Major, sixth son of Luke Lea before named. They lighted their first fire in a log Cabin about a mile south west of the Court-House in the town of Knoxville, as it now stands, on a tract of land subsequently owned by Nathaniel Cowan, Jas. H. Cowan, Thos. W. Humes and William B. Reese, and where the debris of a chimney still mark the spot. Thence the[y] removed to Richland, Grainger County, improved they wife's inheritance, built a mill, and brought up a large family, of whom the two oldest and the two youngest were Collegebred but all were more educated by intercourse with transient guests on the road side and more permanent visitors from the southern states to mineral springs on the estate. The oldest of this family is Pryor Lea, before named, born in 1794. There were seven sons and one daughter that grew to maturity. The youngest is Luke Lea, formerly Commissioner of Indian Affairs, subsequently a banker in Washington City, and now U. S. District Attorney at Jackson, Mi.

Next older than Luke, was Albert Miller, who writes this sketch, born at Richland, July 23d 1808, named Albert by Pleasant Miller, Representative in Congress from Tennessee, whose name was added in acknowledgment. Miller married a daughter of William Blount, the first Governor of "The Territory south of the Ohio River," who founded the town of Knoxville, named for Gen. Knox, the Secretary of War under Gen. Washington as President.

Although Major Lea prospered in the world, and acquired slaves, he brought up his children to labor as he had done in his youth; and the little Albert, though a feeble child, was required to tend the herds, wield the hoe, spread the new-mown grass, and assist in making bricks for the fine house in contemplation. Overwork in this duty brought on a lameness, which, with much suffering disabled him from his eighth to his eighteenth year, and forced him to be a house companion, for much of his time, to his mother, from whom he then learned the traditions here related, and most of the wise sayings and instructions that have made him a conscientious and useful man. She was indeed a noble woman, a fair sample of character formed in frontier life by the stern teachings of danger and necessity. Her elder brother, Noah, was the right hand of his self-willed father; but she, the next, was the chief help of a nervous mother, who bore many children, and twins, as has been said, whom the motherly Lavinia nursed at five years old as her own, instead of the dolls that our daughters of luxury now fondle. Venison then was bread to the fatter bear meat. Sewing, washing, cooking and nursing left her no time for school, and she learned to read by moonlight, yet in after life she was well read, especially in the Scriptures. Ofttimes she was forced against the war-

The first of these is the fact that the world is not a uniform whole, but a collection of many different parts, each of which has its own characteristics and its own history. This is the case with the human world, as well as with the natural world. The second is the fact that the world is not a static whole, but a dynamic whole, which is constantly changing and developing. This is the case with the human world, as well as with the natural world. The third is the fact that the world is not a simple whole, but a complex whole, which is made up of many different parts, each of which is itself a complex whole. This is the case with the human world, as well as with the natural world. The fourth is the fact that the world is not a single whole, but a collection of many different wholes, each of which is itself a collection of many different parts. This is the case with the human world, as well as with the natural world. The fifth is the fact that the world is not a single whole, but a collection of many different wholes, each of which is itself a collection of many different parts. This is the case with the human world, as well as with the natural world. The sixth is the fact that the world is not a single whole, but a collection of many different wholes, each of which is itself a collection of many different parts. This is the case with the human world, as well as with the natural world. The seventh is the fact that the world is not a single whole, but a collection of many different wholes, each of which is itself a collection of many different parts. This is the case with the human world, as well as with the natural world. The eighth is the fact that the world is not a single whole, but a collection of many different wholes, each of which is itself a collection of many different parts. This is the case with the human world, as well as with the natural world. The ninth is the fact that the world is not a single whole, but a collection of many different wholes, each of which is itself a collection of many different parts. This is the case with the human world, as well as with the natural world. The tenth is the fact that the world is not a single whole, but a collection of many different wholes, each of which is itself a collection of many different parts. This is the case with the human world, as well as with the natural world.

like Cherokees, and moulded bullets for the men at the port-holes. At forty five she was often mistaken for the wife of her third son, and sometimes took her turn at the target with the rifle. In old age she said she had never been in bed at sunrise except when unable to be up, and never more than three days at a time, though the mother of eleven children, of whom the eldest was born in her 26th year. At the ripe age of 79, she fell asleep, almost on her feet, having just remarked, as she stood in the porch overlooking a clover field in bloom, "How beautiful this world would be, did not man mar it by sin"! Peace be to her humble spirit, which yet watches over her best-beloved, because most wayward and difficult child, who must plead in excuse for this apparent digression, that his own character would be unknown without that of his honoured mother.

In his thirteenth year he entered E. T. College at Knoxville, then conducted by David Sherman, from Yale, a fair specimen of the selfmade, prudent and philanthropic Christian men of New England who have pervaded the land as teachers of youth. His home was with his elder brother, whose law-office was his study; and there he met the ruling men of the day, including Hu. L. White, whose spartan virtue has ever since been his ideal, and who years after procured for him an appointment as cadet in the U. S. Academy at West-Point, which he entered in 1827, and at the first January examination was ranked equally with Roswell Park and Henry Clay at the head of his class; but want of due exercise in winter, then totally neglected, brought on obstruction and dysentery, which brought him down finally, at graduation in 1831, to fifth in his class, and have ever since marred his usefulness and hindered his success.

Promoted to the 1st Artillery, he spent his furlough in the



first survey of the railway to Washington under the late distinguished Benj. H. Latrobe, who has since been his warm friend, During this time, prompted by desire to oblige a fair lady, in his greenness he was induced to exchange regiments with Jno. B. Maguier^r, who was thus let into the artillery, at the favorite post in the service whilst his dupe was relegated to the 7th Infantry at Fort Gibson, then the extreme frontier, which he reached in February, after much toil and danger, to learn that he had been detailed on Topographical duty, and was ordered to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, whence he was ordered to Washington; and, as the best route then available, went to N. Orleans, and took ship to N. York, and thence stage to Washington, where he received orders to report to Col. S. H. Long at Knoxville, Tennessee to survey and plan improvements for the Tennessee river and its tributaries. Having preceded Col. Long, he left the soft company of his relations, and voluntarily rode with the late David Deaderick by Kingsport towards the head of the Nolichucky, which they alone descended in a canoe from the N. C. line to Knoxville, making a careful reconnaissance and map of the whole route shown by subsequent instrumental surveys to have been wonderfully accurate. Col. Long, assisted by Lts Daney, Heintzelman and Lea, and P. R. Van Wyck, C. Es. then surveyed the river to the head of the Muscle Shoals, during which poor Van Wyck was drowned in the Suck, where the narrator, under orders, staked out the canal afterwards which, thirty years after he was sent there to obstruct and destroy.

The party wintered in Philadelphia, where he began to learn the ways of "Society," and studied hard to fit himself for usefulness and fame. In the spring of 1833, he was ordered to Detroit, to assist in the survey of the great lakes, and having ridden in an open carriage to Wheeling, driven by his friend Henry Clay, Jr.

he traversed Ohio in stages, & thus reached the old post of Detroit, then a straggling village, half French and Indian, of some 3000 people, with streets so difficult in wet weather as to admit only two wheeled carts, in which the elite used to be conveyed to many and very pleasant, reunions, where all ages freely mingled, and the venerable Judge Sibley sat by the wife of his youth, who discoursed no mean music from the first piano that crossed the Allegheneya, borne on a litter from Philadelphia to Pittsburg, and thence by flat boat to Marietta, for the delectation of this venerable old lady, then a fair maiden, who brought it with her to this remote point when her husband came to dispense justice in the new "Territory of Michigan," and they together enjoyed the jokes and gambols of their descendants and their young associates, "tripping the light fantastic toe" to the music thus vouchsafed.

During the summer of 1833, the party surveyed the southern half of Saginaw Bay, the shore from Pointeaux Barques to Saginaw river having been meandered with chain and compass by the narrator, who, returning in October, took an observation for variation of the needle at the most westerly point of the east shore of the lake above its mouth, where he found himself on the great circle of no variation. On Christmas day of that year he made a survey of the harbor at Clinton, above Detroit, and handed to Col. Anderson, his chief, a report and map, upon which was based the beginning of appropriations for the improvement of that little harbor. During the winter, he was domiciled with the highly respected Mrs. Snelling, the widow of the generous Colonel who built Fort Snelling and for whom it was named. Many pleasant little suppers at this genial home, often extended into the "wee small hours," with the hostesses and choice guests, still linger in the memory, and call up



a sigh that such enjoyments are for him no more. But these delights of a refined society did not absorb the time due to official duty, nor distract him from studies proper to his position; and he gave time and labor to the cultivation of literature, being a member of a class who studied French under the good Father Bonduel, embracing Ex. Gov. Stevens Thompson Mason, and others of like generous character.

In the spring of 1834, he was ordered to rejoin his regiment at Fort Gibson, and descended the lakes to Buffalo, visited Niagara, traversed the N. Y. canal, visited his friends, Lts. Geo. H. Wilson and Alexander J. Center at the homes of their respective fathers on the Hudson, and reported, by the way, to the General in chief, at Washington, when contrary to his wish, he was transferred to the First Dragoons, then in the far south-west, making its first campaign. Delay in confirmation by the Senate, for which he was obliged to wait, gave time to cultivate the affections of a lady in Baltimore, where he had incidentally made her acquaintance when sojourning there in 1831, in the employment of the B & O. R. R. Company. Being unexpectedly ordered to proceed promptly to duty, he as promptly made an engagement of marriage, and left the next morning to take charge of recruits at Newport, Ky. for Rock-Island, upper Mississippi river. On the way, they had Asiatic cholera, & he with them, but he closed the eyes of the first who died, the first case he ever saw. Leaving them at Rock-Island he descended to St. Louis, whence he was ordered to New-Orleans, in August, to bring up a large amount of silver for the Indians, such payments having then recently been placed by Secretary Cass in the charge of officers of the Army. Returning to St. Louis, he proceeded to join his regiment which had just come from the Plains to Fort Leavenworth, whence he was ordered to Council Bluffs to pay off Indian annuities. There



he, with many others, whites and Indians, was entertained at a feast by Ompatongah, the distinguished Chief of the Omahas. This feast was made the occasion of one of the most beautiful scenes of a life not uneventful. The Otoes, the fast friends of the Omahas, weakened by long wars with the Sioux, had that year been afraid to take their usual hunt of buffalo on the plains, whilst the bolder Omahas had just returned, loaded down with robes and meat. Opa-minga, the only daughter of the venerable octogenarian Chief, a dashing belle, (very like Mary Randolph, an enchanting descendant of Pocahontas) fortunately uniting domestic virtues with the highest coquetry, had prepared a large new tent of dressed skins; and in this bright new lodge the dried buffalo meat and vegetables were slowly boiled at a fire in the middle while the smoke ascended through an opening in the apex, some thirty-feet above us. We were all reclined around this fire, about forty of us, and had just been served each of us, with a wooden bowl filled with the savory contents of the huge kettle; when Ompatonga, rising to his full height of six feet six, with the graceful toga of robes about him, turned to his old friend, I-e-tun, chief of the Otoes, and said: "My brother! The Great Spirit teaches us to share his bounties with the less fortunate. Your people have been kept away from the plains of plenty this season, and you are houseless and hungry. The Good Father has blessed my people with success in our hunt, and we have shelter and meat to spare. My brother! This is your lodge; these are your guests; bid them partake."

The annuities were distributed to some two thousand wild Indians, including the Pawnees of the Platte, at the Agency under Major John Dougherty, where Bellevue now stands, some six miles above the mouth of the Platte. Here was encamped for the winter



a Mr. Fontenelle, of New Orleans, associated in the fur-trade with Pierre Chouteau, the pioneer of that honored family, who came to St. Louis when it was but a trading and trapping post. He had just returned from a trapping tour of three years in the Rocky mountains, during which time he had wintered near the Great Salt Lake, and gave the narrator his first knowledge of that region, and he was probably the first white man that had seen it. He also described a mountain of salt, capped by hundreds of feet of earth topped by tall trees, mentioned by Lewis and Clarke, and so doubted by the best informed men of that day as to give occasion for a fling at Mr. Jefferson, the author of that expedition, in a doggerel poem attributed to John Quincy Adams, in which occurs this district:

"Let the mountain all of salt be christened Montecello;

And the hog with navel on his back be food for dusky Sally."

Here, also, one of the soldiers of the escort found a bee-tree, the furthest west that the bee had then been seen; and it was then remarked by Major Dougherty, who had been from boyhood a hunter and trader beyond the settlements, that the bee migrated only with the white man.

These petty incidents are here noted as footprints in the progress of an eager civilization which takes little note of subtle traits often prized by the historian, and full of interest to the curious antiquarian.

Returning from the Agency, Platte river was crossed a few miles from its mouth, by ferrying the arms, baggage and men of the escort, including the Agent, in a boat made of two elk skins and willow wands; and then horses had to be swum over; and as the men declined the perilous service, the narrator, scornful to order his men to go where he dare not lead, stripped his horse to the bridle and himself to the shirt, at sunrise on a frosty morning in October,

plunged into the muddy current, and led all the horses safely six hundred yards to the other bank, where some years after a daring Lieutenant of dragoons was lost with his entire command in a quicksand.

Having returned to Fort Leavenworth, he was ordered to join his company, which had preceded him to winter quarters at the head of the lower rapids of the Mississippi, then called Fort Des Moines, now known as Montrose, where a detachment of three companies was stationed under command of the Lt. Colonel, since better known as General S. W. Kearny. At Leavenworth, he bought from a retiring Surgeon, a fine war-horse, which he named Warraneesah, after the last chief of the tribe of Missourias, whom he met at Bellevue, and whose "Medicine" was to lead in battle with a wand only, to show his contempt of death. This horse was his friend in some perilous adventures, and carried him thousands of miles in marches and excursions. Passing through St. Louis to settle his Indian accounts, he purchased a black pony from Illinois, which became a great pet, was wonderfully intelligent, and always was found at the tent door at reville, however he may have been tethered. He bore the name of his owner's native home at Richland.

At St. Louis he took charge of the family of his Captain, having met the lady by accident on a steamboat trying to make her way to her husband, with an infant still as to be supposed to be dying. The boat being frozen up, he took the lady, her maid and two children in an old cariola, drawn by his gallant Warraneesah, and delivered them safely at his post, having footed most of the way, and felt his way in a dark night, along a newly cut road by the side of the roaring rapids.

This was his first regular service with troops. He found his

company in wretched plight, having recently returned from a campaign to the upper Red River region in the far southwest, and commanded by an untrained citizen who had only served as a ranger in the then recent Black-Hawk war. Having brought his company into some order, he was ordered to traverse the country from ^{to} Fort Gibson, and bring forward some sixty men left in hospital there in early autumn. With his servant, a green german, as only escort, he set out on the 2d of January, and as he passed along the Rapids, the frogs were singing, as rains and a thaw had followed the intense cold of the previous month. At Quincy he crossed the Mississippi in a storm of snow, which two miles out, became so dense as to enforce a halt; and thence to the Missouri, the snow grew deeper and the weather colder; and thence he was obliged to send back his servant with his horses, whilst he forced his way through floating ice with his baggage, to the south bank, where he bought a poney used to the weather, and went on alone. Ten miles from Arrow-Rock, he stopped at the hospitable dwelling of Gen. Tom Smith, whose good lady was the sister of ^{his} my pattern and patron, Judge Hugh L. White. Here the snow was too fast deep, the weather intensely cold, and the prairie boundless in the direction he had to go. The next morning ushered in "The cold Friday," Feb. 5th 1835, the severest known in all the west. Gen. S. advised ^{him} me not to turn out; but as he had been an officer in the war of 1812-15, and had spoken the night before of the effeminacy of the young West Point graduates, he could not accept this advice and further hospitality. So, off he went alone, mistook ^{his} my route in the blinding snow-dust swept along by winds unobscured from the hyperborean regions, ^{his} recovered my route, and brought up at sun set in a log cabin in a grove, where the cattle had to be fed next morning as they lay before they could get warmth enough to rise to their feet, and the

good wife's chickens were all frozen to death. Where the snow drifted, it was hard enough to bear ^{the riders} ~~my~~ horses alone; but with ~~my~~ weight added, he sank to his belly; and then, dismounting, the rider helped his horse and led him out of the drifts. This happened dozens of times that day. It was afterwards learned that the mercury at Brownsville, several hundred feet below the prairie was that night as low as 30° below zero. Again a thaw with rains came on, no ferries existed, houses were far apart; but the ride was successfully made at the rate of 35 to 40 miles per day over nearly the route now occupied by the M. K. & T. railway from Sedalia to Gibson. The S. W. corner stone of the State of Missouri was passed, and the last night was passed at the Grand Saline on Grand river, in the house of Lewis Ross, brother of the celebrated John Ross, so long the chief of the Cherokees.

After a causeless and willful detention of a month, by Gen^l, Arbuckle, during which no preparations were made, one morning in bed, an order was received to set out forthwith; and in two hours, the detachment of 68 men belonging to ten different companies, demoralized loafers and prisoners, was shoved off in an old hulk of a keelboat, without a pilot, or a man who had ever seen the route, or had ever handled an oar, to descend the Arkansas river, then in a roaring flood. Well, the hulk reached the mouth safely; and after some delay, the detachment was taken by a steamboat to Cairo and there transferred to another for St. Louis, whence the men for Leavenworth were sent off, and those for Des Moines were conducted to their post early in April. Orders had been received there from Washington for a summer Campaign to the region of St. Peter's river; but there was nothing in fit condition. The narrator was ordered to the Arsenal at St. Louis for arms and ammunition. His Captain

was sent off, nominally to buy horses, but really to let him have the command to fit the company for the march. This done, Nathan Boone, the youngest son of Daniel Boone, a very worthy citizen, easy-going and ignorant of discipline, also a ranger, promoted into the regular service, Captain of one of the three companies, was given leave to go home, and the narrator was left to fit up that company also. A large proportion of the men were raw recruits, the horses were untrained, and the arms were unsuited to the service. However On the 7th of June, however 1835, the detachment of three companies, of about sixty men each, five 4 mule teams and sundry pack-horses, began the march. The route lead up the divide between the tributaries of the Des Moines and those of the Mississippi. Copious rains made progress difficult, and the grass was still short.

It was then all Indian country, claimed by the Sacs & Foxes, but not occupied by them. A few accompanied the command, nominally as guides and hunters, but were useless. Capt. Boone was ^{the} guide, and no game was needed as the Commissary had ^{beaves} been on foot. One calved on the way, and gave milk for use with the abundant strawberries which often covered the prairie for miles together. The narrator commanded his own company, being the only officer present; and he was also charged with the care of the ordnance stores. In addition, he undertook, of his own volition, to sketch the route of march, taking the courses with a pocket compass, and the distances by the time and rate of travelling each course, with sketches of all promine[n]t topographical objects. He also kept a journal in addition to his field book. Where established names could be ascertained, they were retained; and others were given as incidents suggested.

The march was made to the foot of Lake Pepin, where the arrival



of a steambot was awaited, and Capt. Browne took joined the command. The column was then directed westward, and on the head waters of the Blue Earth river a few straggling Indians were met, all that were seen during the campaign. The column became entangled in the multiplicity of lakes and their connecting bayons along the highlands south of the St. Peter's, now called Minnesota river. In an unusually charming locality, the command stopped made its noon halt one day on the shore of a lake which had the apparent shape of an old fashioned chapeau-de-bras, and the name of "Lake Chapeau" was given it on the sketch. The march was continued westward across all the forks of the Des Moines, and down it to Raccoon Fork, which comes from the west. There a halt of some days was made, and thence the narrator descended the river in a canoe under orders to see whether supplies for a fort could be brought up it. The river was meandered, sounded and mapped, and a memoir written out, which became the basis of the appropriations made by Congress for the great works done on that river, whose malaria has marred all his subsequent life.

barracks

After returning to camp, the narrator formed the design of enlarging and improving his map, and writing a description of the region embraced in it with a view to publication. Wearied with the monotony of garrison duty, and anxious to fulfil the promise of marriage made the fair Baltimorean, in the latter part of the winter of 1835-6, he resigned his commission, which was accepted to take effect the first of June following. Meantime he was granted leave of absence, which he employed in improving his map, writing the letter press to accompany it, and correcting the work as it progressed through the hands of his publisher, H. S. Tanner, of Philadelphia, who failed to push its sale; and as one third of the edition was lost on a sand bar in the Ohio, and another fell into ir-



responsible and negligent hands in Iowa, but only 500 copies got into market, some of which sold in the west at fees many times the publisher's price. In this work the name of Iowa was first given to the populous region now bearing that name, and was adopted by Gen. Geo. W. Jones, the delegate in Congress from Wisconsin, which included all the region now known as Iowa, Minnesota, and Dakota, and legalized when that portion west of the Mississippi was erected into a separate Territory.

Fifth May 1836, he married Ellen Shoemaker youngest daughter of Edward Shoemaker of Philadelphia, a younger half-brother to Wm. Rixie, the Jurist, whose mother remained at home, whilst her husband, who was mayor under British rule fled with them taking his only son, who was educated at Oxford, and returned after the war to become a merchant prince by aid of means saved by his prudent mother. But he, as so many others of like character, succumbed to the unforeseeable derangements of trade following the second war of independence; and he and his sensitive wife a Dorsey of Maryland, died of chagrin, leaving a large family in utter poverty; and this lady, at three years, was taken to the home of her eldest sister, who had married a Tilghman of Maryland, who also lost his fine inheritance, and all of them ever after struggled with adversity.

Immediately after his marriage, he travelled through Mississippi and Louisiana to settle up long neglected business for Mrs. Tilghman; and on his return took his bride by Niagara and the Lakes to Chicago, and thence to Galena by stage, being a common farm wagon without springs, trunks being used for seats. At Galena was found her younger brother, trained as a Civil Engineer, then tending a sawmill; and he was taken to Rock-Island, where fitting employment and a home were found for him at Fort Armstrong, then recently disarmed, and where, through the same influence, an Arsenal was subsequently es-



tablished and this brother was made Military Storekeeper, whose duties he has so well performed that he still retains the office at another post.

From Rock-Island, he dropped down to the mouth of Pine river, where he had purchased the preemption titles to large tracts with means furnished by his friend, Gen. Robert Nichols of Brooklyn, N. York; and there he found a log cabin used as a stable as the best accommodation for his delicate wife, during his engagement in surveying the vicinage and in laying off a town, named in her honor, Ellenborough, which is the imperfect knowledge then had of the country, was supposed to be situated at the apex of the great western bend of the river, a position actually now known as Muscatine, then a squatters claim with a log cabin and a stack of hay offered to the narrator for fifty dollars, but long since the seat of wealth, worth and refinement.

Having completed his surveys, he took his wife by St. Louis and Cincinnati, making brief sojourns in each, to Baltimore, having on the way received a tender of the Chief-Engineership of State of Tennessee, a coveted position deferred to a higher duty to his young wife, who bore him, January 31st 1837, her only son. He then hastened to Nashville, and began thence, with an organized corps, on 1st March, a reconnoissance with instruments of a route for a Central Railroad and also for a Central Turnpike from the Mississippi river to the Virginia line. The drawings and report were drawn up at his old home, where his mother still resided and where he was joined by his brave and beautiful wife, who had journeyed six hundred miles by stage with her infant.

The report was handed to the Governor by the 1st of November; and after some delay, he returned for his family, whom he carried through the snow and rough ways across Cumberland mountain in December; and



leaving them in the care of his younger brother, then Secretary of State, was occupied the residue of the winter in locating various roads round about; when, his office having lapsed through change of policy wrought by the financial crash of 1837, he examined the lowlands of the Mississippi for a route for a road across them towards Little Rock; and, returned thence, he was entrusted with a million dollars in bonds of the State to be delivered in Wall street by 1st June. Soon after this was done, at the request of Gen. Geo. W. Jones, then Delegate in Congress from the new Territory of Iowa he accepted from President Van Buren an appointment as Commissioner and Astronomer to determine the Southern boundary of that Territory, and set out for the field in August, visiting the President at the White Sulphur Springs in the Mountains of Virginia, to get his signature to his Commission.

There is a secret history of the dispute between Missouri and Iowa, known to none probably now living but the narrator, that ought to be put on record at the expense of some tediousness.

By a treaty with the Sacs & Foxes, the U. States had reserved for the joint benefit of the half breeds of that tribe, the usufruct of the triangle between the Des Moines and Mississippi and the northern boundary of Missouri extended across to the Mississippi. This boundary had been run many years before, from a point one hundred miles north of the mouth of Kansas river, eastward to the Des Moines, and had been accepted and acted upon by all concerned as the true line, altho' it deviated southward by the use of the same deviation of the compass along the whole distance. Certain persons connected with the land office at Palmyra combined in the speculation of buying up the joint interests of the claimants to the triangle, which they sought to enlarge by moving the boundary further north, by inciting



the authorities of Missouri to claim the ideal instead of the actual line as run; and simultaneously they urged the release of the fee simple title by the United States to the half breeds, through their Senators and representatives in Congress, especially relying on the overwhelming influence of Senator Benton. This little game was frustrated by an explanatory note from the narrator to H. L. White, then chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs; and the relinquishment was not made until years after, when the beneficiaries had had time to be informed of the value of their interests.

During the survey, observations were taken for the latitude of the Head of the Rapids of the des Moines in the Mississippi (as the Lower Rapids were called), of the east end of the northern boundary as run, and of the Rapids of the des Moines in the river of that name, claimed by the speculators as the controlling point in the northern boundary of the State, and therefore as the true northern boundary of the reservation, which would have been doubled had that boundary been adopted. The party, diminished by sickness to four men, then marched westward, seeking land marks of the actual line, amidst snow and floods, to the northwest corner of the state, as originally designated, near which was found a deserted cabin, which saved the party from death through desolating cold and snow. On the way, a company of thirty wild looking horsemen were met going eastward. They refused to give any account of themselves; but it was afterward ascertained that they were Mormons, expelled from western Missouri, seeking a new home in Illinois, where they founded Nauvoo, on a spot whence the narrator had taken the first crop of corn, seventy five bushels an acre, in 1835, for the dragoon horses. At Liberty, in Clay county, a wagon load of Mormon prisoners was met,



including Joseph Smith, the chief apostle of the Latter Day Saints.

Passing through Jefferson, the Capital of Missouri, for the purpose of informing the Governor as to the progress of the survey, and of obtaining any useful information bearing on the question at issue, the Commissioner returned to Washington by St. Louis and Pittsburg by stage, the Ohio being closed by ice. In due time a report was made to Congress, giving the facts, and asking for the adoption of one of the boundaries claimed, and for an appropriation to demark it on the ground. When, months after, the narrator asked Senator Linn why an appropriation was not made for completion of the work, he answered frankly and good-naturedly, that if the subject were brought up, the claim of Missouri would be rejected, and he did not intend that such result should take place during his term.

Thus the dispute wore on, involving much strife and some bloodshed, until Iowa was admitted as a State, when a suit in the Supreme Court became possible; and Charles Mason was employed to advocate the claims of the State, of which he had become a citizen from reading the little pamphlet published by the narrator in 1836. He applied by letter for information, which was furnished, and enabled him successfully to vindicate the claim of his client, and establish by judicial decree the boundary recommended by the Commissioner.

In 1839, the narrator returned to the service of the B. & O. R. R. Co. and located the route from Cumberland up Wills creek, subsequently abandoned, and afterward adopted by the Cumberland and Pittsburg Company.

Whilst he was on the boundary survey, his wife was prostrated by hemorrhage of the lungs, precursor of phthisis pulmonalis, of which she died in the winter of 1838-40. The second failure of the United States Bank caused suspension of progress on the B. & O. R. R'd,



and his consequent cessation of service in that Company. Soon after, he organized in Baltimore a company to colonize Germans on and near his lands in Iowa, which he visited in that winter of 1840-41, with an agent of the Company, who returned with a favorable report, whilst he remained in Iowa to secure needed legislation from the first legislative body assembled at Burlington, where he was lodged in the office of Starr & Grimes (late Senator), with them and a Senator (whose name has escaped, but who married a daughter of U. S. Senator Huntington of Connecticut), a graduate of Yale, who was chairman of the Committee on new Counties and named the first county for the Narrator, although, probably through inadvertence, the name is spelled Leg on the maps, and is usually supposed to have been given in honor of R. E. Lee, then a Captain of Engineers, subsequently in charge of improvements at Des Moines Rapids.

With a liberal charter for his Immigration scheme, he returned to Baltimore to find that the capitalists enlisted had been frightened by the financial uncertainties of the time; and in March 1841, he accepted an urgent invitation from John Bell, of Tennessee, Secretary of War under Gen. Harrison, just inaugurated President, to aid him in that Department, which he entered as Chief Clerk (now called Assistant Secretary) four days before the death of that amiable old Chieftain. On the first Saturday in September, by concert, at noon, each member of the Harrison Cabinet, except Daniel Webster, sent to the actual President, John Tyler, the resignation of his trust; and at 4 P. M. the President handed to the narrator an appointment as Acting Secretary of War, which he held for six weeks, until superseded by John C. Spencer, whom he served a month as Chief Clerk, until superseded by Gen. Parker, a veteran soldier, who needed the salary. Reminiscences of this service in the War office



would be very interesting to the historian, as containing some secret history probably known to no other survivor; but this story of an obscure individual is already so long as to preclude details necessary to correct understanding of events now before the mind of the narrator.

But there is one episode that local interest requires him to relate. Mr. Nicollet, a French Savant, had been engaged by the predecessor of Mr. Bell to explore the basin of the upper Mississippi, and was found by the new Secretary engaged, in a hired house, with Lts. Fremont and Soanmon as assistants, making out his map, then stretched on a large drawing table in the room used as dining hall as well as office. During the summer, Nicollet invited the Narrator to breakfast, ^{at} during which the scene on the lake near the Blue Earth was described: "Oh, beautiful, magnifique," said Nicollet: "What, do you call him?" "Lake Chapeau." "Oh, dat is not de name: It is Lake Albert Lea"; and so he wrote it on the map on the big drawing table, on which he had copied the map published in 1836; and thus the name was given that beautiful sheet of water in Freeborn County, and hence the subsequent name of the fair young city of Albert Lea.

The winter of 1841-2 was devoted to making known to leading men in Congress the abuses discovered in his service in the war department, with a view to reforms, and in advocating some measures pending in Congress, whilst awaiting promised official station never realized. In the summer, he joined Mrs. Tilghman, who had charge of his son, at Fountain Rock, near Hagerstown, and assisted in the opening of the College of St. James at that place. In the autumn he again visited Mississippi and Louisiana in the interests of the same lady; and in the next Spring, returned to his native home, to take care of his lonely and aged Mother, and to cultivate the



lands where he had played and wrought in his infancy and boyhood. Having repaired and improved a farm for many years managed only by an old negro slave, in 1844, he accepted a tender of the Professorship of Mathematics in E. T. University at Knoxville, as successor to Horace Maynard, now U. S. Minister at Constantinople, and who occupied the house appropriated to the chair, with the narrator as a member of his family, until the autumn of 1846, when a new mistress was introduced, Catharine Sarah Davey Heath, a granddaughter of one of the old barons of Delaware, a daughter of Daniel Charles Heath, a Lieutenant in the U. S. Navy, a niece of Judge U. S. Heath, and a granddaughter of Alexander McKim, a merchant, manufacturer and member of Congress, in whose house she was reared, having lost her father at sea at the age of twenty months, and her Mother at twenty years. Cultivated, refined, well provided, and free from domestic cares, her time was given chiefly to charity and religion, which she has sedulously cultivated in herself and her children. Apropos of Religion: His first wife was a communicant of the Prot. Episcopal Church at her marriage. At the birth of his son, the question of baptism arose, and forced him to examine the whole matter; and under the sensible and guidance of Dr. W^m. E. Wyato, Rector of St. Paul's, although his father, as well as his grandfather, was a baptist preacher, and he was brought up in that creed, he was baptized in St. Paul's publicly, and was a few months after confirmed by Bishop Otey, at Nashville, Tennessee. His second wife also was brought up in the Church from infancy, and she has carefully trained her children in the same way.

He remained in the University until 1851, when he was unduly persuaded to take upon himself the responsibility of operating a factory of window glass then lately put up near Knoxville; and he ran it two years, successfully as to production, disastrously as



to profit. In 1854, he resumed his surveying instruments, laid out large additions to Knoxville graded its streets, and was doing like jobs whilst seeking more permanent employment in the profession of Civil Engineering, when he was incidentally entangled for a friend in prosecuting a just claim for a valuable copper mine in Ducktown, but lost it after two years labor by decision in the U. S. Supreme Court based on Statute of limitations. He has ever believed that this decision would have been otherwise had not Judge Taney been prevented from sitting in the case by his supposed duty of attending the funeral of his wife's nephew, Burton Key, who was killed by Sickles in the presence of the narrator.

In 1847, he aided in inaugurating the University of the South, was Marshall of the day in the procession for the occasion on Look-out mountain, July Fourth; and afterward accompanied Bishop Polk several weeks through the Allegheney, and Cumberland Mountains seeking a proper site, which was eventually found at Sewanee, on the Cumberland in Tennessee.

In April of this year, he was urged by his brother Pryor to join him in Texas, where he had a magnificent project of a commercial city on Avansas Bay, with roads leading to various points, especially to the City of Mexico. In June, his younger brother, Luke, then a banker in Washington City, wrote for advice about a proposed railroad from the Pacific to the Rio Grande, at that time under the care of a company chartered by Mexico, of which Luke was President. At the joint solicitation of his two brothers, he went to Texas in the autumn of 1847, and having satisfied himself that there was a fair promise of a brilliant future for both projects if combined, he prepared a preliminary report, and, after seeing it printed, went to Washington, where the Mexican Rio Grande and Pacific Railroad



Company, embracing some leading public men, was induced to adopt his views, and negotiations were set on foot with capitalists and governments. They resulted, in 1853, in securing the good will of the Mexican, American and British governments, and unlimited command of money in London, through the Barings, on one condition only; that the President of the United States, then James Buchanan, would promise to give the company such protection in Mexico as he could legally do. When Mr. Archibald, the senior brother of the British Consul at New York, the negotiator, returned from England, he had no doubt of immediate success, as the President professed his readiness to do any thing in his power to aid the scheme, and suggested that it would be better to have a clause inserted in the treaty then about to be made with Juarez, the actual chief of Mexico, authorizing the U. States to take that work under its special charge as to safety of life and security of property; and promised to give instructions to that effect to Robt. M. C. Lane, then about to leave as Minister Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary to Mexico.

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The Narrator then returned to Texas, and as the Engineer of the Avansas Road Company, began operations in Avansas Bay with a fine dredge boat, designed to make embankments and canals through the shallow waters five miles wide from the mainland to the edge of the deep water near the Light-House, where the city was designed to be built. Whilst there busied, he learned through his brother Luke that the President, through the machinations of I. P. Benjamin, largely interested in Tehuantepec, aided by John Slidell, had falsified his promise, and had sent off McLane with instructions ignoring the Texas and Pacific enterprize. This bad faith of the President retarded operations; the treaty was formed, giving Tehuantepec all asked, and ignoring the Texas & Mexican companies. The Mex. Rio Grande & Pacific Company protested against its confirmation by the Senate. M^cLane was

sent for to help it through; he visited Luke Lea, and offered on behalf of the President a supplementary clause in the treaty giving his company any privileges it might ask, if he would withdraw his protest. but he declined on the ground that, as he had been so deceived once, he could not trust such promises; and the treaty has not to this day been taken from the pigeon holes of the State-Department. Such is the secret history of the failure of this treaty, on which the Buchanan Administration predicated its hopes of fame. This failure to get recognition deterred the moneyed men abroad from promptly advancing means for the work, which languished until the war of Secession put a full stop to it; and by Gen. Jno. B. Magruder order, through misrepresentation of rivals, the dredge was burned.

He had become a Citizen of Texas, and according to his views of duty, although opposed to Secession as inexpedient, he felt obliged to use the talents committed to him by his military education for the party to whom his allegiance was due, and that was, as he believed, his State; and as his State joined the Confederacy, he offered his services to President Davis, and went to Richmond to carry out a scheme of sending beeves from Texas for the forces east of the Mississippi, to be paid for in money to be used in buying military supplies from abroad through Mexico across the Rio Grande. But instead of being sent back to Texas to carry out this scheme, he was ordered to take charge of the Commissariat of the forces about Manassas Gap; but before his recovery from a slight illness he was ordered to E. Tennessee, nominally as Purchasing Commissary, but in fact to help to bring to the support of the Confederacy his old friends and numerous kin, most of whom were disposed to be Unionists. From this service he was ordered to Cumberland Gap on Engineer duty, and fortified that pass so as to repel an attack under Gen. Carter, and thence he was transferred to Chattanooga, about which he was reconnoitering, and obstructing highways, when he was ordered to accompany Gen. S. B. Maxey's brigade to Corinth

just after the battle of Shiloh, or Pittsburg Landing. Returning to Chattanooga, he continued to examine and map the country round about, especially having in view the possibility of such a movement on Atlanta as Sherman made years after; and when Bragg came there in the autumn of 1862 on his way to Kentucky, his labors were matured, and ought to have been useful in skilful hands. He was left at Knoxville to quiet Union Men during this movement towards the Ohio; and soon after was ordered to report to Gen. H. P. Bee at San Antonio, whither he was going, when at Houston, he learned that Magruder had gone down to capture Galveston, where he reported at dusk to Magruder^u, whom he had not met for 33 years. He had heard that his son, Edward, was first officer of the steam sloop of War, Harriet Lane, under Capt. Wainwright, and that she was the chief object of attack. Learning that the design was to board the vessels in the harbor from light river boats with barricades of cotton bales, and ^{knowing} expecting that the officers of the ships would do the work of brave men, he expected all to be killed or wounded by the wild Texans as boarders with shot guns and revolvers, and joined the attacking forces that he might reach his son, as soon as possible, during or after the fight. He marched afoot all night, and was assigned to duty as lookout from a high house near Head Quarters, and soon after the attack began, just at daylight, he reported to Magruder that the Lane had probably captured the Bayou City (Gun Boat), as the two seemed to be lashed together, it not occurring to him that possibly the fact might be the reverse; but so it was, as a note from Brig. Gen. Scurry just then announced, with a truce till 10 A.M. when the Federals had the option of surrender on generous terms or to renew the battle. He asked leave to board the Lane, and there found his son mortally wounded; but, lying on the locker or the Cook-pit, shot through the middle of the

abandon his thoughts turned to his men, whose command had devolved on him by the death of his Captain, and he asked his father to arrange with Magruder that the wounded should be sent to New-Orleans by sea, to save the suffering of going by land to the interior as prisoners. When told of the terms of the truce, his chagrin was deep. The father went to confer with the General, then near the Lane, and just then all the ships, about sunrise, with the white flag of truce flying from each, steamed away towards the Commodore's ship, which, having run aground, in the fright, was abandoned, and blown up, the Commodore, Renshaw, being accidentally still aboard. This is the simple truth in this regard. But another fact on the other side little known is that the Confeds were badly whipped when the Lane was captured by the merest accident, the running of the bowsprit of the gunboat between the spokes of the wheel of the Lane. This accident changed the whole face of the affair, converting a rash enterprise, justly followed by defeat, into a renowned victory.

The officers of the Lane and of a battalion from Boston were left at liberty on the Island, and the next day joined the Confederates in doing honor to their late comrades, to whom the chivalrous Magruder accorded a fitting funeral, in which the Masonic brethren of both armies joined in the procession and services for their deceased brother Winwright, and the burial service of the Episcopal Church was said for them both together by the father of Lieut. Commander Lea.

This incident of the capture of Galveston is thus briefly noted, being forced on the mind of the writer by the fact that he had reached this point in his narrative at the very hour, when sixteen years ago, he was engaged in the affair.

From Galveston he hastened to San Antonio to report to Gen. Bee, and was ordered via Goliad, where he had left his family, to Brownsville, where a lively exchange of Cotton for foreign supplies was going on through Matamoros. Here it happened to come within his power to save E. J. Davis, a refugee from Texas, then a Colonel in the Federal army, since Governor of Texas, from sharing the fate of his associate, Montgomery, who had been kidnapped with him, and lost in the Chaparral.

From Brownsville he was ordered to make defences at the entrance of Matagorda Bay; and had just finished a compact little fort near the light-house, when G. N. Banks came along and took it. He was then ordered to Gonzales to establish a magazine of provisions fortified against cavalry raiders; and there he remained until June 1865; when, immediately after cessation of hostilities, he took his family to Galveston, to make it his home, drawn thither by the grave of his son, who still lies there.

"In sight of the sea, in sound of the wave."

He opened a little book-store, which was closed with loss, owing to detention of remittances by interrupted mails; and in 1866 he was surveyor and engineer of the City, a duty he performed with such zeal as to bring on a subacute inflammation of the brain, which unfitted him for mental labor for years; but in 1870, he opened a Land Office, and did such business until his removal, in 1874, to Corsicana, where his two sons were in trade, and where he has since resided with his family, engaged in fitting up a new house and garden, resting his brain, and working with his hands, until he feels competent to do any ordinary amount of mental or physical labor; and, having been lately restored to Civil rights by act of Congress, he now purposes, at three score and ten, to return to public life, and

to resume his place among men.

Respectfully submitted to the Historical Society of Minnesota,
in compliance with reiterated requests.

A. M. Lea.

Corsicana, Tex. Jan'y. 23d 1872.

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